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EFFORTS TO DISCREDIT DR MAHATHIR STARTED YEARS AGO, SAYS ABDULLAH

ALOR SETAR, Oct 8 (Bernama) -- Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi said tonight, efforts to discredit Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad overseas started several years ago.

He said the efforts originated abroad but their sources could have come from within the country.

"What they are doing (running down the prime minister) is old, all sorts of things go out, including on the Internet.

"The efforts to concoct the stories are based overseas, not locally, but there may be links with our people...because the caucasians don't know our language," he told reporters after a meeting with Kedah Umno leaders, including Menteri Besar Datuk Seri Syed Razak Syed Zain. here.

He was asked to comment on a collumn in a Malay newspaper, Mingguan Malaysia, that there were planned moves by certain groups to discredit the prime minister and isolate the country from the international arena.

The writer also said that the efforts included a series of demonstrations planned to coincide with Dr Mahathir's visits overseas.

-- BERNAMA

MZM JK